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EXAMINER	
FINDLEY, CHRISTOPHER G	
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2621	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/705,336	IRIE, TOSHIAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher Findley	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 November 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11/05/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2. Re claims 1 and 2, the Applicant contends that Osakabe is completely silent with respect to selectively outputting image data (Applicant's Remarks: page 7, line 18, through page 8, line 6). However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Osakabe discloses that commands originating from the remote commander are passed along the chain of devices, and a response is sent back only from the destination device designated by the user (Osakabe: column 2, line 39, through column 3, line 4), thereby performing the communication selectively and outputting image data from a certain device when that device is selected.

3. Re claims 1 and 2, the Applicant also contends that Osakabe fails to disclose a control section having a changeover control (Applicant's Remarks: page 8, line 7, through page 9, line 21). However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Osakabe discloses that when the remote control signal is directed to a target other than a given device, the given device transmits the control signal to the next device in the chain (Osakabe: column 2, line 39, through column 3, line 4). Therefore, the IEEE 1394 interface of the first device in the chain of devices acts as the first control section, performing a changeover function when the first device determines that the command is directed to another target. The interface of the next device in the chain of devices would act as the second control section.

4. Re claims 1 and 2, the Applicant further contends that Osakabe fails to disclose a control section able to send direction signals to another control section (Applicant's Remarks: page 10, lines 1-21). However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Osakabe discloses selective communication between devices (Osakabe: column 2, line 39, through column 3, line 4), wherein the devices are capable of both receiving and sending command signals (Osakabe: column 5, lines 59, through column 6, line 9).

5. Therefore, the Examiner maintains the previous rejection of claims 1 and 2, and subsequent dependent claims 3 and 4, under Osakabe (US 6400280 B1). A modified copy of the previous rejection, reflecting changes made to the claims in the Amendment filed 11/05/2007, is included below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

7. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Osakabe (US 6400280 B1).

Re **claim 1**, Osakabe discloses a composite audio-video apparatus comprising: first and second image reproduce sections for reproducing images respectively recorded in different mediums (Osakabe: Fig. 3, DVCR 23 and DVD 24); first and second control sections for respectively controlling the first and the second image

reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, the DVCR and DVD are independent devices with their own local control circuitry); an operation command informing section, including a remote operating section, for informing the first and the second control section of an inputted operation command (Osakabe: Fig. 3, Digital TV 21; Fig. 12); and an image output section for selectively outputting an image reproduced by the first or the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, Digital TV 21); wherein the first control section includes a changeover control section for controlling to change over an image input source of the image output section (Osakabe: column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, a device is activated depending on the Destination_ID); the second control section outputs a direction signal to the first control section only when the operating command inputted from the operation command informing section is a specific operation command which has been previously set for the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, when the second unit (DVD 24) communicates back to the Digital TV 21, the commands and data are relayed through the first unit (DVCR 23) depending on the specific device selected by the user); and the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image reproduced by the second image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the first control section receives the direction signal even when the image output section is set to output an image reproduced by the first image reproduce section, and the first control section changes over the image output section so that the image reproduced by the first image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the operation command inputted from the operation command informing section is a specific operation command which has

been previously set for the first image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3; column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column. 7, line 12, the Digital TV 21 displays the picture from the device corresponding to the user selection, where the Destination_ID specifically selects a certain device in the device chain; Osakabe: column 2, line 39, through column 3, line 4, the communication with a second device in the chain will be passed through the first device in the chain).

Re **claim 2**, Osakabe discloses a composite audio-video apparatus comprising:. first and second image reproduce sections for reproducing images respectively recorded in different mediums (Osakabe: Fig. 3, DVCR 23 and DVD 24); first and second control sections for respectively controlling the first and the second image reproduce sections (Osakabe: Fig. 3, the DVCR and DVD are independent devices with their own local control circuitry); an operation command informing section for informing the first and the second control sections of an inputted operation command (Osakabe: Fig. 3, Digital TV 21; Fig. 12); and an image output section for selectively outputting an image reproduced by the first or the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, Digital TV 21); wherein the first control section includes a changeover control section for controlling to change over an image input source of the image output section (Osakabe: column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, a device is activated depending on the Destination_ID); the second control section outputs a direction signal to the first control section when the operating command inputted from the operation command informing section is an operation command for the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, when the second unit (DVD 24) communicates back to the Digital TV 21, the

commands and data are relayed through the first unit (DVCR 23) depending on the specific device selected by the user); and the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image reproduced by the second image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the first control section receives the direction signal even when the image output section is set to output an image reproduced by the first image reproduce section, and the first control section changes over the image output section so that the image reproduced by the first image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the operation command inputted from the operation command informing section is an operation command for the first image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3; column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, the Digital TV 21 displays the picture from the device corresponding to the user selection, where the Destination_ID specifically selects a certain device in the device chain; Osakabe: column 2, line 39, through column 3, line 4, the communication with a second device in the chain will be passed through the first device in the chain).

Re **claim 3**, Osakabe discloses that the first control section includes a discrimination section for discriminating whether or not the operation command is a specific operation command which has been previously set for the first image reproduce section when the operation command for the first image reproduce section is inputted to the first control section (Osakabe: column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, the specific device according to the specific Destination_ID is selected); and only when the operation command is the specific

operation command for the first image reproduce section, the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image from the first image reproduce section is outputted (Osakabe: Fig. 3; column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, if the command is intended for the second device, the first device ignores the command and relays it to the second device).

Re **claim 4**, Osakabe discloses that the second control Section includes a discrimination section for discriminating whether or not the operation command is a specific operation command which has been previously set for the second image reproduce section when the operation command for the second image reproduce section is inputted to the second control section (Osakabe: column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, the specific device according to the specific Destination_ID is selected); and only when the operation command is the specific operation command for the second image reproduce section, the direction command is outputted to the first control section (Osakabe: Fig. 3; column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, if the command is intended for the second device, the first device ignores the command and relays it to the second device and the response from the second device is relayed through the first device).

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Findley whose telephone number is (571) 270-1199. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (571) 272-7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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